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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of

Seiji SAKANO et al.

Confirmation No. 2953

Serial No. 09/995,593

Group 1642

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Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the accompanying documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were cited by the European Patent Office in the corresponding European application Serial No. 96 93 8478. A copy of the European Search Report in which they were cited is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By

Robert J. Patch
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 17,355
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

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